



February 14, 2007

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

AARP is pleased to endorse the "Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act." Your bill will create a much needed pathway for the effective and efficient approval of safe, comparable and interchangeable versions of biologics.

Americans of all ages increasingly rely on prescription drug therapies for treatment of illness. Unfortunately, the price of many prescription drugs remains prohibitively expensive. The manufacturer price of brand name prescription drugs continues to rise at almost twice the rate of inflation each year. While generic drugs offer a lower-priced, safe alternative, consumers do not currently have access to generic versions of life-saving biologics.

Biologics hold great promise for treating some of the most serious diseases Americans now face – such as cancer and multiple sclerosis. But these treatments can cost tens of thousands of dollars per year and, in some cases, as high as hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Consumers and public programs like Medicare and Medicaid cannot afford to sustain these astronomical prices. Generic biologics can help save money for both consumers and taxpayers.

Your legislation would create a pathway for FDA approval of safe, comparable and interchangeable biological products. It will ensure that consumers have greater access to many of the biologic therapies currently out of their reach and, in doing so, will improve the quality of life for millions of Americans.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact this critical legislation this year. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Anna Schwamlein Howard of our Federal Affairs staff at 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William D. Novelli
Chief Executive Officer